

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact
September 28, 2000**

PURPOSE: Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing options.

TAC: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u>Federally Listed Species</u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u>Cutthroat Trout</u>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<u>Oregon State Listed Species</u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.

2000 Management Agreement

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the aggregate URB run.

- The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

State Guidelines

- In May 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that all fisheries will be managed such that aggregate impacts not exceed a 13.3% harvest rate on coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River.
- Harvest rates on LRW fall chinook should not exceed 10% in ocean and Columbia River fisheries in accordance with Washington state's wild salmonid policy.

2000 Stock Status

Summer Steelhead

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>					
		Cumulative through September 25			
		September 25 Daily	2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	----	16,500	7,200	9,500
	Group A Index	372	210,208	169,125	167,097
	Group B Index	474	36,747	18,769	18929
	Total Counts	846	263,455	195,094	195,526
The Dalles		1,173	180,060	139,679	119,808
John Day		2,342	168,428	126,767	98,008
McNary		1,978	94,820	67,663	69,063
Ice Harbor		1,966	74,563	57,054	48,791
Lower Granite		2,854	54,419	35,385	25,879
Priest Rapids		100	10,437	7,352	5,989

- The steelhead run above Priest Rapids Dam is projected to be about 15,000 fish, including 3,500 wild fish.

Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,400	27	143,300	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	17	38,400	83	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,700	78	57,400
1993	28,600	21	108,100	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	20	22,300	80	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,800	14	11,400	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,600	85	174,300	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,400	85	208,300	3,900	11	32,700	89	36,000
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	8	36,800	92	40,200
1999	56,600	32	119,800	68	176,400	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000 Proj.	64,000	29	155,000	71	219,000	9,000	21	34,000	79	43,000

- TAC reviewed run size data and updated run size expectations for Group A and Group B index steelhead.
- Preseason projections were for 210,000 Group A index (157,300 hatchery and 52,700 wild) and 33,800 Group B index (22,800 hatchery and 11,000 wild).

Fall Chinook

Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts					
		September 26 Daily	Cumulative through September 26		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	819	163,740	179,355	160,700
	Tules	0	17,753	45,750	31,000
	Total Counts	819	184,460	225,105	191,786
The Dalles		623	118,469	117,163	97,278
John Day		376	95,446	91,865	72,011
McNary		788	57,984	60,539	53,539
Priest Rapids		300	31,000	25,811	13,564
Ice Harbor		96	5,178	4,815	2,879
Lower Granite		65	2,503	2,170	1,084

- The McNary Dam count exceeded the 45,000 escapement goal for the 17th consecutive year.

Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth					
Stock	1999 Return	2000 Preseason Forecast	Inseason TAC Updates		
			Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 27
URB	166,100	208,200	163,700	151,000	149,700
SRW	2,739	1,764	1,764	1,764	1,764
MCB	49,600	58,400	45,900	45,900	45,500
BPH	50,200	26,900	20,100	19,400	19,100
LRH	40,000	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400
LRW	3,300	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
LRB	1,100	3,200	2,500	2,500	2,500
SAB	2,900	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
Total	313,100	328,900	264,400	251,000	249,000

- Fall chinook passage is less than preseason expectations with the inseason updates for brights and tules being 72% of preseason forecast.
- On September 27, TAC updated the URB run size to 149,700, and the BPH run size to 19,100, at the Columbia River mouth.
- Based on 42,200 bright jacks passing Bonneville Dam through September 25 returns are projected to total 45,000-55,000, which would be the largest count since 1988.
- The 9,100 tule jacks, including adult sized jacks, passing Bonneville Dam through September 26 is the largest count on record.
- Lower Granite Dam counts to date have already exceeded final dam counts observed in four of the last five years.
- The preseason expectation was for a return of 564 wild fish past lower Granite Dam.

Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns						
Hatchery/Stock	Returns	As of:	Escapement			Comments
			Preseason Projected	Inseason Update	Goal	
Elokomin LRH	1,080	9/21	2,500	1,500	720	Goal achieved.
Cowlitz LRH	730	9/21	2,900	--	3,830	Too early.
Toutle LRH	175	9/21	1,400	--	1,910	Too early.
Kalama LRH	2,100	9/21	2,000	3,300	1,670	Goal achieved.
Washougal LRH	300	9/21	1,800	--	2,760	Too early.
<i>Total WA LRH</i>			<i>10,600</i>		<i>10,890</i>	
Big Creek LRH	2,363	9/25	2,700	2,800	3,000	Typically 90% complete.
Bonneville LRH	330	9/25	100	--	--	Last year of LRH returns.
Willamette LRH	1,025	9/17	--	--	--	Releases discontinued in 1996.
<i>Total OR LRH</i>			<i>2,800</i>			
Klaskanine SAB	64	9/25	990	--	--	Trap open weekends only.
Big Creek SAB	330	9/25	100	--	--	Releases discontinued in 1997.
<i>Total SAB</i>			<i>1,090</i>		<i>1,500</i>	
Bonneville BUB	2,166	9/25	7,000	--	4,500	Typically 57% complete.

- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 26 are 4,028 males, 2,757 females, and 4,034 jacks.
- The Spring Creek escapement goal of 7,000 adults will likely be achieved, but the egg take goal of 20 million will not be achieved.

Coho Salmon

- The preseason projection for Columbia River coho return was 450,200 adults, the highest since 1991. The return is expected to be comprised of 253,600 early stock (highest since 1991) and 196,600 late stock (highest since 1991).
- Upriver coho returns are tracking ahead of preseason expectations with 54,700 adults passing Bonneville Dam through September 20. Passage is typically 35-75% complete by this date.
- Early stock coho returns to Washington hatcheries are tracking above average.
- A total of 12,695 adults have entered Bonneville Hatchery through September 25. Return is typically 64% complete by this date.
- Returns to date have totaled 1,320 adults to Sandy Hatchery, 334 adults to Big Creek Hatchery and 1,250 adults to Eagle Creek Hatchery.
- Wild early stock coho returns to the Clackamas River are improved over to recent years with 1,216 adults counted at North Fork Dam through September 26. Early stock adult passage is typically 40-86% complete by this time period.
- Through September 20, 146 adults have passed Marmot Dam on the Sandy River. Passage typically peaks in October.

Sport Fishery Updates

Buoy 10 Fishery

- The Buoy 10 sport fishery opened August 1 for chinook salmon, adipose fin marked coho, and adipose fin marked steelhead, with a daily catch limit of two fish of which only one can be a chinook.
- A 9,000 chinook mortality quota is in place and the fishery was closed to chinook retention during August 28-31 to ensure that this quota was not exceeded.
- Through September 25 an estimated 6,108 chinook and 23,800 coho have been landed by 74,700 anglers.
- Effort has declined to less than 200 angler trips per day and season catches are expected to total less than 6,200 chinook and 24,000 coho.

Below Bonneville Dam

- Mainstem Columbia (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and adipose fin clipped coho on August 1. The final catch estimate for August is 3,476 chinook from 41,577 angler trips.
- The projected chinook catch of 7,400 through September 30 is on track to catch an estimated 8,000 chinook through the end of the year.
- An estimated 5,000 marked steelhead were kept and 1,900 unmarked steelhead (200 mortalities) were released during August 1-September 25 of which 4,100

marked steelhead were kept during August and 1,700 unmarked steelhead were released during August.

- During the month of August the marked steelhead catch was comprised of 94% Group A index fish and 6% Group B index fish and during the first 20 days of September marked steelhead catch was comprised of 47% Group A index fish and 53% Group B index fish.
- Good catches of hatchery coho are occurring in the lower Cowlitz, Toutle, Kalama, and Lewis rivers. Most Washington lower Columbia tributaries are closed for chinook retention, except for the Kalama and Elokomina rivers.

Above Bonneville Dam

- For the month of August the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had resulted in 84 adult chinook kept, 7 jack chinook kept, 3 coho kept, 195 hatchery steelhead kept, and 361 wild steelhead released from 2,260 angler trips.
- During the first 15 days of September the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River has resulted in 63 adult chinook, 10 jack chinook, 8 coho, and 95 hatchery steelhead kept, plus 95 unmarked steelhead released and 25 unmarked coho released.
- Steelhead catches have declined in the Bonneville Pool tributaries. Increasing numbers of fall chinook and hatchery coho are appearing in the catches.
- At Hanford Reach effort was high and boat anglers averaged one adult chinook for every 7 anglers last week.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery Update</i>				
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Sep 18-20	Sep 25-28 (Proj.)
URB	369	2,603	640	270
BPH	123	484	0	20
MCB	353	2,159	750	130
LRH	550	298	70	260
LRW	0	0	190	0
LRB	0	216	160	20
SAB	31	0	20	40
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>5,832</i>	<i>1,910</i>	<i>740</i>
Coho	1	161	9,882	27,300
Chum	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	2,357	301	415	75
G. Sturgeon	472	5	288	20

- White sturgeon landings, including select areas, have totaled about 6,000 which leaves 4,000 on the 10,000 catch guideline.

Youngs Bay Select Area Fishery

- The Young's Bay Select Area fishery is open 7 days/week from September 5 through October 31.
- As is expected for the time of the year the fishery has begun to slow down with landings averaging 5 chinook, 640 coho, and 1 white sturgeon per day.
- Season total expectation is for a catch of 2,000 chinook.
- Preseason expectations were for landings of 53,000 coho and 1,000 chinook.

<i>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update</i>					
	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
Chinook	1,627	251	98	89	64
Coho	26,447	8,257	1,294	3,304	278
Chum	1	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	81	46	4	0	0
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0

Other Select Area Fisheries

- The Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River fisheries opened on September 5 and the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough fisheries opened September 7. All fisheries are scheduled to continue through the end of October except for Steamboat Slough, which ends on October 28.
- Catch expectations for the season are 10,000 coho in Deep River and 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Steamboat Slough.
- Catches in Tongue Point have dropped significantly from the peak daily catch of 3,100 coho on September 10-11.
- Coho catches in other select areas have been relatively stable with daily landing to date averaging 150 in Blind Sough, 350 in Deep River, and 35 in Steamboat Slough.

Treaty Indian Fishery

Zone 6 Preliminary Catch Composition								
Dates		Total Chinook	URB	BPH	MCB	Total Steelhead	Wild	
							A Index	B Index
Aug C&S		225	165	20	40	2,660	400	60
Aug 30- Sep 2	Ticket	12,560				1,050		
	Non-Ticket	2,270				870		
	Total	14,830	9,340	2,870	1,810	1,920	360	110
Sep 5-9	Ticket	15,400				2,960		
	Non-Ticket	4,830				710		
	Total	20,230	14,350	1,900	3,550	3,670	590	350
Sep 12-16	Ticket	9,330				2,740		
	Non-Ticket	370				1,130		
	Total	9,700	5,720	1,730	2,060	3,870	480	320
Sep 19-23	Ticket	4,500				2,410		
	Non-Ticket	2,620				840		
	Total	7,120	6,500	0	440	3,250	550	150
Grand Total		52,105	36,080	6,520	7,900	15,370	2,380	990

- During the four fishing periods, landings included 6,219 coho, 166 white sturgeon, and 47 walleye.
- The tribal fishery through September 23 is estimated to have a 24.1% harvest rate on URB's and 11.0% harvest rate impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

1999 Zone 6 Set Net Counts						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Sep 3	none	219	136	143	498	366 on 9/3/99 and 473 on 9/3/98
Sep 5-9	none		No Counts			466 on 9/9/99 and 378 on 9/10/98
Sep 13	None	209	195	222	626	468 on 9/16/99 and 423 on 9/6/98
Sep 20	None	156	101	228	485	464 on 9/23/99 and 309 on 9/23/98

Fishery Proposals

Treaty Indian Fishery

- The Columbia Treaty tribes have provided the following Zone 6 treaty Indian commercial fishery option.
- Catch to date is 556 in John Day pool, with a catch guideline of 1,160.

<i>Proposed Season</i>	
Season:	6 AM Monday Oct 2 to 6 PM Sunday Dec. 31, or until catch guideline of 1,160 is reached
Area:	John Day to McNary Dams (Zone 63).
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in place.
Gear:	Setline.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon between 48 and 60 inches in total length.
Catch Projections:	600 white sturgeon.

Summary of Fishery Impacts								
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts		Total Steelhead	Wild Steelhead Impacts			
		No.	%		Group A Index		Group B Index	
					No.	%	No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries								
August C&S	225	165	0.1	2,660	400	0.6	60	0.7
Commercial	51,880	35,915	24.0	12,710	1,980	3.1	930	10.3
Late Fall C&S (Proj.)				3,000	360	0.6	210	2.3
Treaty Indian Total	52,105	36,080	24.1	18,370	2,740	4.3	1,200	13.3
Non-Indian Fisheries								
August Sturgeon Commercial	1,700	370	0.25	20	4		1	
August 2S Commercial	5,830	2,600	1.74	114	0		24	
September 18-20	1,910	640	0.43	23	2		2	
September 25-28 (Proj.)	740	270	0.18	15	1		2	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	1,780	40	0.03	4	1		0	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	6,200	1,200	0.80	54	0		2	
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	8,000	4,600	3.07	6,140	202		28	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	670	610	0.41	17,900	590		80	
Non-Indian Sub Total	26,830	10,330	6.90	24,270	800	1.25	139	1.54
October 2-5 (Proj.)	520	200	0.13	8	1		2	
Non-Indian Total	27,350	10,530	7.03	24,278	801	1.25	141	1.57
Grand Total	79,455	46,610	31.14	42,648	3,541	5.5	1,341	14.9

Next Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact be scheduled for October 6, 2000 at 1:00 PM at ODFW Headquarters Commission room in Portland to update salmon and steelhead stock status and commercial fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
September 28, 2000